

### REMARKS

In response to the above-identified Office Action, Applicants amend the Application and submit the following remarks. In this Response, Applicants amend the Abstract.

In the Office Action mailed May 8, 2002, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-7, 8-16, 18-25, 27-28, and 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohashi et al. ("Ohashi") (U.S. Patent No. 5,764,483) in view of Macias et al. ("Macias") (U.S. Patent No. 6,196,003).

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection, and respectfully submit that the limitations of independent Claims 1, 11, 23, and 28 are not taught or suggested by Ohashi or Macias.

In addition, Applicants submit herewith an Affidavit Under Rule 1.131 establishing an invention date prior to the filing date of Macias, November 4, 1999. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Macias is not prior art to the Applicants' invention. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection to Claims 1-7, 8-16, 18-25, 27-28, and 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) since Macias is not prior art to Applicants' invention.

In the Office Action mailed May 8, 2002, the Examiner rejected Claims 7, 17, 26, and 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohashi in view of Macias as applied to the claims above, and further in view of Mizuno ("Mizuno") (U.S. Patent No. 5,333,676). Applicants respectfully traverse, and respectfully submit that the limitations required by Claims 7, 17, 26, and 29 are not taught or suggested by the cited references. As discussed above, Applicants respectfully submit that Macias is not prior art to Applicants' invention, and Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection to Claims 7, 17, 26, and 29.

### CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims now pending (a) are in proper form, (b) are neither obvious nor anticipated by the relied-upon art of record, and (c) are in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would be

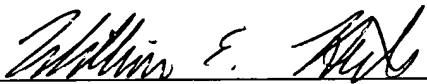
useful in moving the Application forward to allowance, the Office is encouraged to contact the undersigned at (310) 207-3800.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR, & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: 8/7/02

By:   
William Edward Hickman; Reg. No. 46,771

12400 Wilshire Boulevard  
Seventh Floor  
Los Angeles, California 90025  
(310) 207-3800

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING:**

*I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on 8/7/02.*

 8/7/02  
Name NADIA GORDON Date